

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



Reply to Attn of: TD12

October 19, 2000

TO: DA01/A. G. Stephenson
THRU: AD33/Amanda J. Wilson

FROM: TD12/David J. Weeks

SUBJECT: Request for Deviation/Waiver

Deviation/Waiver Number: MPG 7120.1-WAV01

In accordance with MPG 1410.2, TD12 requests approval for a deviation/waiver from the requirements in MPG 7120.1A, "Program/Project Planning," paragraphs 2.3 and 2.6, and MPD 1280.1, "Marshall Management Manual," paragraphs 7.1.2.2, 7.1.4.2, 7.5.1, and 7.8.3.1, which require approved project and quality plans prior to project implementation.

Define the proposed departure from the requirements:

It is requested that the X-38 Deorbit Propulsion Stage (DPS) Project, specifically TD12, be permitted to continue project implementation while the Project and Safety & Mission Assurance Plans are in the process of being approved.

Justification for the deviation/waiver:

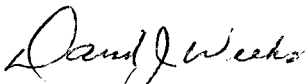
The X-38 DPS Project's Electrical Interface Panel (EIP) and Bolt Catcher (BC) assemblies were originally planned to be built by the X-38 DPS contractor selected by the Johnson Space Center prior to the transfer of the contract to the Marshall Space Flight Center. The design and fabrication of these two items were brought in-house to MSFC due to technical, cost and schedule concerns. If the items had been manufactured at the contractor facility, the contractor's management system would have been utilized. As a result of this, approved Project and S&MA plans are delinquent at this time. These plans are in the process of being updated or are in the Center Director's signature cycle. Issuance of neither document in question has any current impact to the design, fabrication, or test of X-38 DPS flight hardware manufactured at MSFC. The project is being managed in accordance with the provisions in these plans.

Alternate approach to be taken:

The X-38 DPS Project has submitted an updated Project Plan, which is in the Center Director's concurrence signature cycle. The S&MA plan is nearing completion by the S&MA organization and will soon be available for review before submission to the MSFC Program Management Council (PMC). This deviation/waiver will expire on the latter approval date of the Project Plan by the Center Director or the S&MA Plan by the MSFC PMC. In the interim the X-38 DPS project will comply with all applicable sections of the MSFC Management System. Upon approval of the Project and S&MA plans, the X-38 DPS project will review all activities to date to assure compliance with all sections of the approved Project and S&MA plans pertaining to flight hardware.

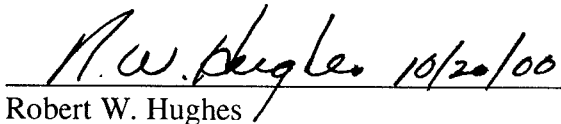
Applicability, impacts, and conditions (if any) of deviation/waiver:

If this deviation/waiver is not approved due to valid, formally-documented, technically-based justification(s), the MSFC X-38 DPS Project in-house manufacturing work will be stopped, pending approval of the Project and S&MA plans. In that event, the JSC X-38/CRV Project Office will be notified that MSFC is unable to complete its role in providing a complete Deorbit Propulsion Stage for the X-38 mission aboard STS-114.



David J. Weeks
Project Manager
X-38 Deorbit Propulsion Stage

Concurrences:

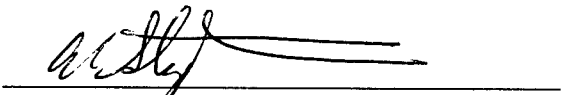


Robert W. Hughes
Manager, Development Projects Office



John R. Rogacki
Director, Space Transportation Directorate

Approval:



A. G. Stephenson
Director

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